

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716) 843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 2006

Former Buffalo Police Detective Sentenced

RE: UNITED STATES v. ANDRE ORTIZ

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter announced today the sentencing of Andre Ortiz. Ortiz, who was convicted of fraudulent use of a computer on his plea of guilty in October 2004, was sentenced to a fine of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) by United States Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, who handled the case, stated that the defendant had been convicted of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030 as a result of an FBI investigation into a large scale marijuana distribution ring in the City of Buffalo. During the investigation, Ortiz was captured over the telephone providing information to a member of the organization that he had obtained from the NCIC system.

The plea agreement reached between the government and Ortiz required Ortiz to retire from the Buffalo Police Department.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn.